

**Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Board Meeting
February 18, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers**

MISSION

To inspire lifelong learning by connecting people and resources

VISION

To be the most dynamic, accessible, and relevant learning environment in the community

AGENDA – Wednesday, February 18, 2015

- I. Roll Call – Maxine Brink, Michael Burhans, Lucille Cronin, Sarah Galt, Debbie Hayes, Steven Markey, Laura Peterson
- II. [Acceptance of November 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes](#)
- III. Additions or Changes to the Agenda
- IV. Public Comments
- V. [Director's Report](#)
- VI. [Patron Comments and Suggestions](#)
- VII. Library Board Expiring Terms
Galt, Hayes
- VIII. City of Midland 2015-2016 Budget Schedule
- IX. Library Renovations Update
- X. Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative Report – Cronin
- XI. Strategic Plan
- XII. Announcements
- XIII. Adjournment

Next meeting date: March 18, 2015 – **MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE LIBRARY BOARD ROOM**

**Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
Library Board Minutes
Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 7 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers**

I. Roll Call

Burhans called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Melissa Barnard, Michael Burhans, Lucille Cronin, Sarah Galt, Laura Peterson, Debbie Hayes,

ABSENT: Maxine Brink, Steve Markey

ALSO PRESENT: Ron Beacom, Manager of MCTV and Library Communications;
Roberta VanHolstyn, Technical Secretary.

II. Acceptance of October 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Cronin to accept minutes as submitted, seconded by Galt. Motion approved.

III. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

None

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion was opened on whether or not the Library Board meetings should include reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Galt feels that the focus of the meeting should be the Library. Since Board members do not have to be a U.S. citizen, any tradition or ritual of the Board should be inclusive and welcoming to a potential member of the Board who may be a legal resident but not a U. S. citizen. Galt also noted that Midland has a strong international community.

As a former teacher, Hayes recalled that some students chose not to say the Pledge and were not looked at differently. Also she did not think inserting it would detract from the business of the Library Board. Although the Pledge hasn't been recited and not missed, voting recently strengthened her belief that it is acceptable to recite it. The Pledge would be a common thread and a good thing to do. Hayes will respect the wishes of the Board regardless of the decision. Galt commented that the Pledge is not a common thread for all in the community.

Burhans recalled that when he didn't recite the Pledge at school, he was ostracized. He feels that when the Pledge was altered in 1954, the intention was to be divisive because of the addition of "under God." Burhans read a quote from President

Roosevelt about the wording change. He believes that to recite the pledge would violate the law and his own religious beliefs. Further, Midland has a large international community and we need to be accepting of all. He would oppose the recitation of the Pledge and would not participate.

The Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Cable Access Advisory Commission have adopted a motion to recite the pledge. The Downtown Development Association cites lack of public at their meetings and that they are not a governing body as a reason for not reciting the Pledge. Other boards and commissions have not addressed this as yet. In clarification, the City Council is a governing body and recites the Pledge before each meeting.

Galt suggested to say the mission and/or vision statements of the Library as a ritual to start the meeting and focus on the main job of the board.

Burhans noted that government officials and military swear to the constitution and not to the flag that is a symbol.

Barnard advised the Board that a motion and second is in order to bring the matter to final discussion and a vote. Burhans asked for a motion.

Motion was made by Hayes to open each Board meeting with the recitation of the Pledge to the flag. For lack of a second, the motion died on the floor. There was no further action.

VI. Director's Report

Barnard noted that the Library's technology team participated in webinar training for customizing the new catalog. The new catalog interface will be ready after the first of the year.

There will be a Battle of the Books team competition for adults on Saturday, April 11, 2015. The book list will be revealed on New Year's Eve. Teams will be required to register. This program is part of Happenings 2015.

Barnard pointed out library closings and change of hours during the holidays. The Library will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The library will close at 5:00 pm on the days before and after Thanksgiving, and on New Year's Eve.

The most recent program in the Amazing Brain Series was attended by 145 people. The next two programs, "The Aging Brain" and "Mindfulness for Seniors" will be held in the afternoon in January and February.

VII. Patron Comments and Suggestions

UNSIGNED COMMENTS:

1. I wish you displayed on the 7 day open shelves the new non-fiction as well as the fiction. Sure, mysteries are swell, but folks do read other types.

Staff is reviewing Book Express purchases of nonfiction titles.

2. We loved crafty readers. We home school and have four children just the right age. Please bring it back! Thank you – love the library, you all are awesome!
Attendance was a factor in the decision to re-evaluate this program. Staff continually reviews programs and considers patron input.

VIII. Library Renovations Update

The windows replacement project is underway. The windows in the computer area have been installed and the windows in the genealogy area are almost done. Some structural issues were discovered with the windows in the Quiet Room and will need to be addressed before the windows can be installed. The contractor hopes to have the project completed in three weeks. There is funding available to cover the additional costs of structural repair.

IX. Midwestern Michigan Library Cooperative Report

Cronin attended a phone conference meeting of the Advocacy Committee which included a discussion on the mini grants that enable MMLC members to travel to Washington D. C. for Legislative Day in the spring.

X. Strategic Plan

Following up on the actions from the Strategic Plan, a staff in-service will be held December 8th and 15th with a focus on customer service, team building, and change. Core values will be part of the training.

Beacom provided information on the Marketing/Communications goal:

- 1) The design and colors for the new exterior banner “Yes You Can @ the Library” was shown.
- 2) Board members will be contacted for their promotional videos that will be taped on December 10th from 4-6 p.m.
- 3) The Library will have a booth at Kids Day at the Mall on January 17th. There will be an activity for children to help promote the “Yes You Can @ the Library” theme. Board members will be invited to volunteer.
- 4) Barnard will write an op-ed article for the Midland Daily News on the campaign.

Beacom announced that MCTV is celebrating its 30th Anniversary at Whiting Forest on Thursday, November 20th. Barnard noted that Beacom has directed MCTV for 25 of the 30 years.

XI. Announcements

Michael Burhans commended those who produce the Library Connection. The staff in graphics who prepare the newsletter is transitioning. Elaine Warakowski who has

done the newsletter for several years is focusing on other tasks. Adrienne VandenBosch will take her place in graphics.

XII. Adjournment

Galt moved to adjourn. Peterson seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Next meeting date is February 18, 2015.

Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Board **Director's Report** February 12, 2015

Adult Services Activities

The first Tablet Users Group meeting was attended by 22 users who brought their questions and tips.

The January Classic Movie had 25 in attendance and February's attendance was 18.

The IRS has reduced the number of tax forms that it provides to public libraries. The library dedicates a computer to accessing and printing tax forms. Links to tax forms are also on the Library's website.

Youth Services Activities

Cram Night brought 110 teens to the Library for a night of study along with refreshments.

The Battle of the Books championship Battle is Thursday, March 5th at 4:30 pm. The number of teams this year is 55.

Teen Band Night is March 13th. This is the 3rd Band Night since May 2014. Each time more teens are participating in performing either as a band or solo performances.

Other

Thanks to Lucille Cronin, Debbie Hayes, Laura Peterson and Associate Youth Services Librarian Deanna Schroden for volunteering at Kids at the Mall. An estimated 300 children and adults stopped by the booth to pick up flyers and enjoy a craft project.

Melissa Barnard participated in a phone conference to review the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative's Revised Advocacy Plan and learn details of the National Legislature Day grant.

Happenings 2015 will be using the "Yes You Can" theme. Some of the programs planned include: The Joel Tacey Variety Show for the whole family, National Library Week Tea featuring a speaker on Gone with the Wind, Teen Lock-in, Yoga for children and teens, Drop

Everything and Read youth program, Adult Battle of the Books, Writer's Workshop and MCTV's Shining Stars. A new program that will be introduced during Happenings is 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, a reading program to encourage parents to read to their preschool child.

The Library will be participating in the 2015 Give Local Midland on May 5th. Community members will be encouraged to go online at www.givelocalmidland.org between 12:00 am and 11:59 pm on May 5th to donate to a local endowment fund. The event is being supported by the Midland Area Community Foundation. The Library's fund is the Public Library Development Endowment Fund. Matching gifts will be offered.

The Friends Used Book Sale is Friday, February 20th (members only); Saturday, February 21st and Sunday, February 22nd.

The City of Midland has initiated an online employment application process. On the City's homepage, those interested can click on Employment Opportunities at the bottom of the page.

PATRON SUGGESTIONS AND CONCERNS – January 2015

SIGNED COMMENTS:

1. On the library website when accessed via an iPhone the "My Account" choice is very far down. I'm guessing "My Account" is popular enough to move towards the top.
2. My son has enjoyed the Crafty Readers. I hope you continue them.
3. We love the library! A huge blessing to our community.

UNSIGNED COMMENTS:

3. There are not enough selections for men in the large print section. There should be more options instead of murder/mystery or romance novels. Please expand the book selection for male readers.
4. Put due date at top of receipt for easy referral.